



**A Publication of the
HEARING AND SPEECH EXAMINING BOARD**

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**Continuing Education Now Required For
Licensure Renewal**

The Hearing and Speech Examining Board has approved rules (HAS 8) specifying continuing education requirements for all licensees. The rules are now in effect and apply to all audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and hearing instrument specialists who hold a license from the Hearing and Speech Examining Board in the Department of Regulation and Licensing. They do not apply to individuals who are licensed solely by the Department of Public Instruction and practice in the schools.

All licensees are required to obtain twenty clock hours of approved continuing education courses every two years in order for their license to be

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renewed. For audiologists and speech-language pathologists, the two-year period commenced on February 1, 1999 and will end January 31, 2001. Hearing instrument specialists will be required to meet the same requirement by January 31, 2000. Pending legislation, if passed, will change the date for hearing instrument specialists to January 2001. The twenty clock hours must be obtained in the two-year period prior to licensure renewal. Hours accumulated prior to the two-year period before licensure renewal will not count. The twenty-clock hour requirement must also be met for each subsequent licensure renewal. Only courses, or parts of courses, that pertain to the practice of fitting and dealing in hearing instruments, audiology or speech-language pathology, as appropriate, shall be accepted. A licensee who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date shall not practice until his or her license is restored.

Note: One clock hour is defined as sixty minutes.

At the time of licensure renewal, each licensee will be required to sign a statement certifying that he or she has taken twenty clock hours of approved continuing education courses in the two-year period. Licensees must maintain records supporting their claim for five years from the date the certification statement is signed. An individual who holds more than one license must meet the continuing education requirements for each license.

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Licensees may obtain continuing education hours in four ways.

1) The Examining Board has determined that acceptable courses are those approved for continuing education by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the International Hearing Society, and the National Board for Certification in Hearing Instrument Sciences.

2) Organizations or entities that wish to sponsor a course not approved by the organizations listed above may seek prior approval from the Examining Board to have that course count for continuing education. Once the course is approved, licensees may register for the course and count those clock hours toward the requirement. Organizations and entities wishing to create and administer a course should contact the board to obtain a copy of the required procedures. Individual licensees shall not be approved as continuing education sponsors.

3) Licensees may take a graduate level course from an accredited institution of higher education. Each clock hour of the course will count toward the twenty clock hour requirement.

4) Continuing education programs or courses of study offered by alternative delivery methods such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing and other methods may be approved by the Examining Board.

The Examining Board also has the authority to require every licensee to take a specified continuing education course or take a special examination. If the Board, in consultation with the Department of Regulation and Licensing, determines that it has received a significant number of consumer complaints in any subject matter, it may require each licensee, as appropriate, to complete a specified continuing education program or course of study to ensure competence with respect to a matter in which the complaints were received. In lieu of taking the required course, each licensee has the option of taking an examination administered by the Board on the subject matter of the continuing education program or course of study. This examination will be given prior to the required course. Licensees who pass the examination will not be required to

take the course and will be credited with the applicable continuing education hours.

Questions regarding the continuing education requirements should be directed to Patrick Braatz, Administrator, Department of Regulation and Licensing, PO Box 8935, Madison, WI 53708-8935.

Y2K Update

By the end of this year, everyone - no doubt - will be tired of hearing about the Y2K "problem." The issue has received, and will continue to receive, considerable attention in the media and workplace. Governor Tommy Thompson has made Y2K readiness one of the top priorities of his administration and is committed to ensuring that state agencies are ready to deal with any and all problems which may result from the coming of the year 2000.

The Department of Regulation and Licensing, like all other state agencies, has been preparing for the last couple of years now for the switch to the year 2000. We have analyzed major functions in the department and have identified areas where work was needed in order to prepare for a smooth transition to the year 2000. We are confident that our preparations are on track and we anticipate no major problems in the department as we approach the year 2000.

There are three main areas which can summarize our progress towards dealing with Y2K issues. They are:

Applications: All of our applications have been converted over to the Oracle database and these processes are Y2K compliant.

Hardware and System Software: The department is currently in the process of upgrading all of our personal computers to ensure that they are Y2M compliant. A complete department-wide testing of all computer hardware devices is being planned for July, 1999.

Contingency Plans: The department is also developing a contingency plan to address issues related to business resumption in case a disaster involving unforeseen problems may arise due to Y2K issues.

We are confident that our actions to date and the additional efforts which will unfold over coming months will ensure that the department will see a smooth transition from 1999 to 2000. We will keep you posted on an "as needed" basis should other issues materialize or if we need to provide any additional information regarding departmental goals and actions which are aimed at successfully managing the Y2K issue.

Department Overview

by Secretary Marlene Cummings

As Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing, I am frequently asked for information about the department and believe that it is useful from time to time to discuss the structure and philosophy which guides the work of this department as well as providing information of the department's current strategic business goals.

The Department of Regulation and Licensing is an umbrella agency, which provides services to over 20 boards. These boards are responsible for the regulation of a wide variety of professions and the department independently regulates many other professions, occupations and entities. There are basically three different regulatory activities provided by the boards and the department. They are: 1) the application and examination process; 2) defining what the credentials entitles the credential holder to do through scope of practice; professional conduct, and professional ethics written into administrative code, and; 3) enforcement.

One of the more unique oversight board arrangements in the department is the joint board which regulates professional engineering, architects, landscape architects, designers and land surveyors. This joint board is in the Division of Business Licensure and Regulation. The division is divided into two bureaus to allow for more direct service staff to become better acquainted with the issues surrounding each profession.

This board, along with all other boards in the department, set standards of professional competence and conduct for the profession under its charge; prepares, conducts and grades the examinations of prospective new practitioners; grants licenses; investigates complaints of alleged unprofessional conduct; and performs other functions assigned to it by law. One of the most

important departmental responsibilities is to assist the boards in discharging these duties.

In addition the department also:

- * Acts as a conduit for professions and their interaction with other state agencies or the governor's office.
- * Has broadened its enforcement authority to respond more effectively and efficiently to complaints of unlicensed practice. Through the administrative injunction process, the department is able to effectively enforce licensure requirements.
- * Is in the process of using new technology to upgrade our services to customers through expanded use of automated telecommunications services and by facilitating electronic transmission of information via the internet.
- * Is exploring more opportunities for seminars and information exchanges with professional credential holders and their statewide associations to learn more about the professions and how we can provide better services.

Disciplines

JEFFREY B. WILLIAMS, HEARING
INSTRUMENTS SPECIALIST
OSHKOSH WI SUSPEND 5 DAYS/LIMITED
Failed to perform and document pure tone bone
conduction testing. Failed to determine and
document monaural speech reception thresholds.
Reprimanded. Suspend 5 days effective 12/14/98.
Limited. Pay costs of \$800. Sec. 459.10(1)(k)(p),
Stats. HAS 4.01(1)(2)(4), 4.04, 5.02(2)(e). Case
#LS9808191HAS

KATY ROSE CHAPMAN, SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST
WAUWATOSA WI EDUCATION/REPRIMAND
Practiced speech-language pathology prior to the
issuance of a license. Effective 3/24/99.

TINA A. SPELLMAN, SPEECH-LANGUAGE
PATHOLOGIST
STOUGHTON WI EDUCATION/REPRIMAND
Practiced speech-language pathology prior to the
issuance of a license. Effective 3/12/99.

Department of Regulation and Licensing
Hearing and Speech Examining Board
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Holder

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ALL verification requests must be in writing.
Requests for verifications to other states must be
in writing. The cost is **\$10**. Please make out check
or money order to the Department of Regulation and
Licensing.

Digest on Web Site

The November 1997 and June 1998 digest is on the
Web.

Visit the Department's Web Site

<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/drl/>

Send comments to dorl@mail.state.wi.us

1999 Board Meeting Dates

September 13, December 6

Wisconsin Statutes and Code

Copies of the Hearing and Speech Examining Board
Statutes and Administrative Code can be ordered
from the Department. Include your name, address,
county and a check payable to the Department of
Regulation and Licensing in the amount of \$5.28.
The latest edition is dated March, 1999.

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